

## CLAIMS:

1. A method of defining a widget displayable by a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:
  - 5 triggering an event associated with the widget;  
responsive to the event, selecting a mass  $m$  associated with the widget; and  
determining an effective force boundary circumscribing the widget as a function of the mass  $m$ .
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining includes:  
determining a mass  $M$  associated with a selection pointer displayable by the GUI; and  
calculating the value  $B = \sqrt{m/M}$ , wherein  $B$  represents the effective  
15 force boundary.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of triggering includes:  
activating a pop-up menu for selecting the mass  $m$ .
- 20 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
using a selection pointer to activate the pop-up menu.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of triggering includes:  
selecting the widget with a selection pointer while the widget is  
being displayed by the GUI; and

5 clicking a mouse button to activate a pop-up menu for selecting the  
mass  $m$ .

6. A computer system, comprising:  
a display;  
10 a graphical user interface (GUI) presented by the display;  
a widget, included in the GUI, having a user-selectable mass  $m$   
associated therewith;  
a selection mechanism permitting an end-user to select a value of  
the mass  $m$ ; and  
15 means for defining an effective force boundary of the widget as a  
function of the mass  $m$ .

7. The computer system of claim 6, further comprising:  
a selection pointer displayable by the GUI having a mass  $M$ ; and  
20 means for calculating the value  $B = \sqrt{m/M}$ , wherein  $B$  represents  
the effective force boundary.

8. The computer system of claim 7, further comprising:  
means for determining the distance D between the center of the  
selection pointer and the center of the widget;

5 comparison means for determining if the magnitude of the value of  
B is greater than or equal to D; and

means for moving the selection pointer displayed by the GUI  
relative to the widget, responsive to the comparison means.

10 9. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the selection mechanism  
includes a pop-up menu for selecting the mass m.

10. A computer program product stored in a computer-usable medium,  
comprising:

15 means for providing trigger-event associated with a widget  
displayable by a graphical user interface (GUI);

means for permitting a user to select a mass m associated with the  
widget in response to the trigger-event; and

20 means for determining an effective force boundary of the widget as  
a function of the mass m.

11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the means for determining includes:

- 5 means for determining a mass  $M$  associated with a selection pointer displayable by the GUI; and
- means for calculating the value  $B = \sqrt{m/M}$ , wherein  $B$  represents the effective force boundary.

- 10 12. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:
- means for determining the distance  $D$  between the center of the selection pointer and the center of the widget;
- comparison means for determining if the magnitude of the value of  $B$  is greater than or equal to  $D$ ; and
- 15 means for moving the selection pointer relative to the widget in the GUI, responsive to the comparison means.

13. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the means for permitting a user selection includes:

- means for activating a pop-up menu for selecting the mass  $m$ .